

# From the Upper Chamber



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## Report for Thursday, February 28, 2008

The twenty-fifth day of the 2008 legislative session was called to order by Lieutenant Governor **Casey Cagle**.

Senator **Don Balfour** of the 9<sup>th</sup> stated that the journal had been read and was found to be correct.

Sen. **Steve Henson** of the 41<sup>st</sup> moved to reconsider SB 403. There was no objection.

Sen. **John Douglas** of the 17<sup>th</sup> moved to reconsider SB 440. There was no objection.

Senate Bills 526-533, Senate Resolutions 1035, 1038 and 1047, House Bills 188, 250, 958, 981, 1043, 1065, 1090, 1124, 1160, 1169, 1183, 1222, 1282, 1285, 1304, 1308, 1309, 1312 and 1313 and House Resolution 1023 were read for the first time and assigned to committees. The clerk then read the reports of standing committees.

After the morning roll call, Sen. **Robert Brown** of the 26<sup>th</sup> led the Senate in the Pledge of Allegiance. He then introduced the *Chaplain of the Day*, Pastor **Spencer L. Booker** of New Grant Chapel AME Church in East Point, who led the Senate in the daily devotional.

Lt. Gov. **Cagle** recognized several student athletes of the Special Olympics of Georgia at the rostrum.

Sen. **Lee Hawkins** of the 49<sup>th</sup> took the well on a Point of Personal Privilege to discuss a resolution that would allow states suffering from a drought to be temporarily exempt from the federal Endangered Species Act.

Sen. **Don Thomas** of the 54<sup>th</sup> took the rostrum to introduce the *Doctor of the Day*, Dr. **Todd Schmidt** of Atlanta.

Sen. **Joseph Carter** of the 13<sup>th</sup> took the well on a Point of Personal Privilege to announce the kick-off of the 30-day Legislative Fitness challenge today, in partnership with the Atlanta Falcons.

Sen. **Dan Moody** of the 56<sup>th</sup> took the well on a Point of Personal Privilege to recognize a Smyrna area support group of Christian home school students, seated in the Senate gallery.

President Pro Tempore **Eric Johnson** of the 1<sup>st</sup> took the well on a Point of Personal Privilege to commend the Georgia Trial Lawyers Association for their actions against certain lawyers attempting to capitalize on the Dixie Crystal plant explosion in Savannah earlier this month.

SR 1043 was read and adopted.

The Senate Consent Calendar for Privileged Resolutions, consisting of SR 1036, 1037, 1039-1042, 1044-1046 and 1048-1051, was unanimously adopted.

The clerk read SR 1046, which recognizes today as Seniors Day at the Capitol. Sen. **Renee Unterman** of the 45<sup>th</sup> took the rostrum to speak to the resolution and discuss the growing needs of Georgia's senior population.

The Senate Local Consent Calendar, consisting of SB 486, 494 and 495 and HB 664, 1223 and 1279, was adopted by a vote of 41 to 0.

The clerk read SR 929, which recognizes today as Macon Day in Atlanta. Sen. **Brown** took the rostrum to speak to the resolution and introduce Macon Mayor **Robert Reichert** to the Senate.

SB 436 was read, which seeks to make it easier for a board of directors of a publicly traded corporation to elect a new director by increasing the percentage of votes.

Sen. **Bill Cowsert** of the 46<sup>th</sup> took the well to present the bill. He yielded to questions from Sen. **Steve Thompson** of the 33<sup>rd</sup>.

SB 436 passed by a vote of 48 to 0.

Sen. **Chip Pearson** of the 1<sup>st</sup> asked that SB 420 be removed from the table and placed at the foot of the calendar. There was no objection.

The clerk read SB 437, which allows kit motorcycles to be registered.

Sen. **Jeff Mullis** of the 53<sup>rd</sup> took the well to present the bill and offer his support of Amendments 1 and 2, both of which make language clarifications. He yielded to questions from Sen. **Ralph Hudgens** of the 47<sup>th</sup>.

Sen. **J.B. Powell** of the 23<sup>rd</sup> presented Amendment 1, which allows for motorcycles with inaccurate serial numbers to be registered by the Georgia Department of Transportation.

Amendment 1 was unanimously adopted.

Amendment 2 was unanimously adopted.

SB 437 passed as amended by a vote of 47 to 0.

Sen. **Seth Harp** of the 29<sup>th</sup> took the rostrum to recognize two outstanding professors of Georgia technical colleges, seated in the Senate gallery.

The clerk read SB 466, which exempts car washes using recycled water from outdoor watering restrictions.

Sen. **John Bulloch** of the 11<sup>th</sup> took the well to present the bill.

Sen. **Johnson** took the gavel to preside over the Senate.

The clerk read Amendment 1, which exempts swimming pools from the same restrictions. Sen. **Chip Rogers** of the 21<sup>st</sup> took the well to present the amendment.

Sen. **Bulloch** took the well to speak in support of Amendment 1.

Amendment 1 was unanimously adopted.

SB 466 passed as amended by a vote of 49 to 1.

The clerk read SB 469, which allows a “personal care home” to house two patients instead of one. Sen. **Harp** took the well to present the bill.

SB 469 passed by a vote of 51 to 0.

The clerk read SB 474, which seeks to protect children from Internet predators by allowing parents to block their child’s access to specific Web sites and monitor their use of the Internet, among other measures.

Sen. **Cecil Staton** of the 18<sup>th</sup> took the well to present the bill, and yielded to questions from Senators **Ron Ramsey** of the 43<sup>rd</sup> and **Thompson** of the 33<sup>rd</sup>.

The Committee Substitute to SB 474 was unanimously adopted.

SB 474 passed by substitute by a vote of 52 to 0.

The clerk read SB 440, which allows particular non-profit organizations to sell certain pull tab games, such as Bingo.

Sen. **Douglas** took the well to present Amendment 1, which narrows the focus of the bill by placing a limit on winnings and clarifies which organizations are allowed to sell such games.

Amendment 1 was unanimously adopted.

SB 440 passed as amended by a vote of 49 to 2.

The clerk read SB 420, which will change provisions of the *Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Act* to exempt the Department of Transportation (DOT) from civil penalties levied for certain violations.

Sen. **Pearson** took the well to present the Committee Substitute.

Sen. **Michael Meyer von Bremen** of the 12<sup>th</sup> took the well to withdraw his Amendment 2, which removes contractors from the exemption. The change had already been included in the Floor Substitute.

Sen. **Harp** took the well to withdraw Amendment 1, which keeps the money from fines within the DOT for projects. This change is also included in the Floor Substitute.

Sen. **Harp** moved to withdraw Amendment 1. There was no objection.

Sen. **Meyer von Bremen** moved to withdraw Amendment 2. There was no objection.

The Committee Substitute to SB 420 failed by a vote of 0 to 40.

The Floor Substitute to SB 420 was unanimously adopted. The legislation now returns to the Senate Rules Committee.

Following the announcements, Majority Leader **Tommie Williams** of the 19<sup>th</sup> moved that the Senate stand adjourned until 9:00 a.m., Friday, February 29.

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